

# DISCOVER

The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

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Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

## RETREAT CEREMONY



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

Students of the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine stand in formation as members of the Base Honor Guard lower the flag during Brooks' first retreat ceremony. The ceremonies will be held quarterly at the wing flagpole located in front of Bldg. 150.

## Brooks to implement new travel system

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Federal workers at Brooks City-Base will transition later this year to the new fully automated, web-based Defense Travel System that is being adopted throughout the Department of Defense. The new system will eventually replace the service-specific temporary duty (TDY) travel systems the Armed Forces have been operating under for the past several years. While the Air Force plans to fully field the new system by the end of Fiscal Year 2006, its implementation here will be gradually phased in according to unit organizations.

"We will begin implementation for Brooks units in March," said Master Sgt. Scott Dougan, Superintendent for the Brooks City-Base Financial Management and Comptroller Directorate. Before Brooks travelers can go on-line with DTS, Organization Defense Travel Administrators at the unit level will be trained on the new system. They will, in turn, train unit members, said Sergeant Dougan. The FM superintendent is the base's lead Defense Travel Administrator along with Tech. Sgt. Adrienne McGill, FM's chief of customer support.

While implementation at Brooks will be staggered by unit, Sergeant McGill explained, DTS's fielding here is projected to be completed sometime in July. "It replaces the Reserve Travel System, that four years ago, replaced the Defense Integrated Automated Travel System," Sergeant McGill said.

According to DTS Program Director Col. Brandy Johnson, the new system has adopted the best features of commercial travel technology and links them to the DoD financial and accounting systems. "DTS will mean online TDY travel for virtually every person in the Department of Defense, both civilian and military," Colonel Johnson said.

What this means for the user is do-it-yourself, online TDY travel. DTS transfers responsibility for travel plan approval and travel voucher certification from the servicing base finance office to the unit level.

DTS also automates the three-step DoD travel process: authorization, reservation and voucher filing. Under the sys-

See DTS/Page 15

## New commander joins AFRL

By Erin Caylor  
Air Force Research Laboratory Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Ted F. Bowlds officially assumed command of the Air Force Research Laboratory Monday during an appointment of command ceremony at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force's Modern Flight Hangar in Dayton, Ohio. Gen. Bruce Carlson, commander, Air Force Materiel Command, presided over the afternoon ceremony and handed over the AFRL flag to the newly-appointed, fourth commander of AFRL. A reception welcoming General Bowlds to the lab was held immediately following the event in the Wright-Patterson Club and Banquet Center.

As commander of AFRL, General Bowlds will lead an AFRL staff of more than 9,500 people and manage more than \$3 billion of the Air Force's science and technology budget. He will be respon-

sible for the research and technology development of nine AFRL directorates and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

"My first priority as commander is to the men and women of AFRL, to ensure they have the resources they need to do their jobs, that they are taken care of, both professionally and personally, and most importantly, that every individual's voice is heard," said General Bowlds.

General Bowlds comes to AFRL after serving as the deputy for acquisition,



MAJ. GEN. TED BOWLDS

Aeronautical Systems Center, where he assisted the ASC commander and program executive officer for Aircraft Procurement and Modernization. He was responsible for supporting the management of more than 50 major programs, including modernizing and upgrading existing fighters and delivering the F-22A Raptor, in addition to executing an annual budget of \$18 billion.

Since his commissioning from the Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1975, General Bowlds has had a diverse career to include assignments as a flight test engineer on the F-117 Nighthawk, an avionics program manager on the B-2 Spirit, bomber branch chief at the Pentagon, chief of Advance Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile development in the system program office, and as commander of Rome Laboratory in Rome, N.Y.

Prior to his previous position at ASC, General Bowlds was the program executive officer for Airlift and Trainers at Headquarters U.S. Air Force.

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## How force shaping affects morale

By 1st Lt. Kristen Duncan, Eglin Air Force Base  
96th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Balance the officer and enlisted corps: that is the current need of the Air Force. As an officer and a second generation Airman, I've been told from day one, the 'needs of the Air Force' come first.

What happens when those needs mean the loss of my job - and not just my job, but a career of integrity, service and excellence? I vowed to protect the Constitution, to continue what my father and the greatest generation did in World War II. I am truly a patriot. I am an Airman.

With force shaping, Air Force leadership is undertaking the very difficult task of reducing its forces. In a Nov. 14 briefing, Brig. Gen. Kathleen Close, director, Installations and Mission Support, Air Force Materiel Command, said the leadership knows they could be losing a future commander, or a future general, but the Air Force can no longer support the imbalance of officers to enlisted troops. To support the mission, the service has to reduce its 2002 and 2003 lieutenants through volunteer or forced separations.

That equals more than 4,000 young, promising lieutenants. One thing is certain; the caliber of lieutenants is unparalleled. The question is: what does this do to our mo-

rale? Working on various projects, I have to wonder, will any of this mean anything if I'm force-shaped? Will I still be able to lead my troops? Is my morale going to take a nose dive? What if I work harder than I've ever worked to impress the heck out of every commander I've ever met? How do I keep focused on my job and my mission?

The answer is really quite simple. We should all work harder, not to impress for fear of losing our jobs, but because we are all officers who strive for excellence. We should continue to accomplish our jobs with the same unfailing performance and the same can-do attitude we've always had.

We should continue to work hard for our shops, our troops, our families and ourselves.

In one of the hardest hit career fields, I've examined all my options and have come up with a few ideas: navigator training, Palace Chase and even switching services. Thankfully, the Air Force is giving us options. I've come to realize, though, that serving my country means serving its needs. The needs of the Air Force must always come first.

I hope to make a career of the Blue; but even if my active-duty career is cut short, it is for the mission of the Air Force and the United States military that I will serve and honorably discharge.

It could be my last act on active-duty service, but I am, and will always be, an Airman.

## A weighty resolution to ponder

By Kendahl Johnson  
Discovery editor

Annually, New Year's celebrants pronounce resolutions, evidenced by the over-crowded gymnasiums packed with resolution setters. I am an admitted resolution maker and breaker. Unfortunately, by the second week of January my resolutions are becoming a distant memory and by March I swear to do better ... next year.

This year, I am determined to truly make a change in my life. I sat down to write resolutions and compiled a laundry list of things I need to work on. It was a little discouraging to see on paper just how many flaws I have and how far from perfect I really am.

I decided with my short attention span, it would be wise to focus on one resolution at a time. I started wheedling down my resolution list, scratching off the resolutions on the list that could safely wait for 2007. Eventually I narrowed it down to one, the same one I have every year - lose weight.

Resolving to lose weight was the obvious choice. My weight has crept up a little each year and this holiday season I added 10 extra pounds, putting me above the 280-pound mark for the first time in my life. At 5-foot-10, I have a body mass index of 40. Further research revealed that I have reached the point of morbid obesity. I knew I was overweight, but knowing the medical world classifies you as morbidly obese is a real wake up call.

So I resolve to lose weight. For help, I turned to what I have dubbed Brooks' best kept secret - the Health and Wellness Center, or the HAWC. Not many people know the HAWC is a tremendous resource in helping Brooks employees achieve many fitness goals, whether it be losing weight or simply improving health.

I started with a 90-minute session with Diana Gonzales, a registered nurse who works primarily with civilians and heads the Civilian Health Population Service, and Capt. Cynthia Pouncey, a certified dietician and health promotions director. They provided an abundance of tips to help me in my quest.

The first step was a quick education on the finer points of goal setting. "Where a lot of people fail is that they don't know how to set goals," Captain Pouncey said. "Most people do not know how to set goals effectively."

Setting a goal isn't that hard. "I am going to lose weight." Done. My goal is set. Let's move on to something else. Unfortunately, as I would find out, it's not that simple. First, I was told a goal needs to be specific. "You can't be vague when setting goals. You need to be very specific," said Captain Pouncey. Specificity is the first element in her five-part goal-setting philosophy nicknamed SMART.

So I referred back to the BMI chart and calculated that in order to bring my BMI under 25, which is considered normal weight for my height, I would need to lose

111 pounds. That would put me at 173 pounds, just a few pounds above my high school wrestling weight. So my new goal became "Lose 111 pounds."

I checked to see if that matched the captain's SMART metric. It is specific. And it is measurable, the second element. Any scale can measure if I have lost 111 pounds. But is it attainable or realistic, the next two parts of SMART?

"You need to make the goal realistic. When dealing with weight loss or addictions, set a goal that does not exceed the limits of human physiology," Mrs. Gonzales said. She said losing one to two pounds per week is possible but any more is unhealthy.

The final element of SMART is time - a goal must have a time element involved. So I needed to add a time element and adjust my goal to make it a little more realistic. I have one year before my parents return from an 18-month church mission. They made me promise I'd lose weight before they came back, so one year is a decent time element for this particular resolution.

In one year, figuring I could safely lose one to two pounds per week, I settled on a goal of losing 70 pounds, less than 1.5 pounds per week. That is certainly attainable if I work hard and it factors in any setbacks along the way. "I will lose 70 pounds by 2007." That's my goal. Done. Let's move on.

But the HAWC's course in goal setting wasn't finished. "The most important thing in achieving a long-term goal is to focus on short-term objectives to determine how you will reach your long term goal," Captain Pouncey said. "Create a food record, keep an exercise log, learn about yourself and determine the areas you really need to work on."

So we went about discussing ideas for short-term objectives. When I said I was ready to start my diet, I got immediate disapproval from both women. "Our philosophy is that diets in a literal sense just don't work," Captain Pouncey said. "We are trying to teach healthy lifestyle modification." And I got a brief rundown of the many different resources the HAWC offers that will help me modify my lifestyle.

The HAWC offers a Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Program, a class designed to help people improve their cardiovascular health. It has a certified trainer and diet therapist, Staff Sgt. John Seay, who gives fitness assessments and helps people develop a suitable exercise program. Diana McCurtain is the fitness program manager who does body fat analysis. They offer stress management classes and other educational classes designed to help improve overall health. They are taking an HEB Tour, where they will help people teach healthy shopping and eating techniques. Mrs. Gonzales offers a weight management course called Lighten Up.

With the enormity of help provided by the HAWC, I know I am will succeed. I also am surprised I didn't turn to the center for help sooner - it really is one of the best kept secrets on base. In the coming months, I will use this column to let the secret out, to discuss in depth the resources of the HAWC as well as my own personal progression in my effort to lose 70 pounds by 2007. Wish me luck!



# HSG's 'Iron Man' builds on 50-year federal career

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

It is unlikely that Cecil Proctor's work ethic and career longevity was inspired by legendary New York Yankee first baseman Lou Gehrig, who as baseball's "Iron Horse," did not miss a day of work in 14-plus seasons. To the Human Systems Group's "Iron Man," who was born during Gehrig's remarkable consecutive games played streak, doing what you like to do most for as long as you can is more a way of life than an incredible feat.

For more than 50 years, this 74-year-old mechanical engineer from Hazen, Ark., has been working for the federal government. Having served on active duty for both the Navy and Air Force, his career has spanned the administrations of 10 U.S. Presidents. He has no plans to quit, believing he should keep his options open by working for the Air Force indefinitely.

"Retirement is not in my vocabulary," he says matter-of-factly. He likes what he's doing here with the same depth of commitment that has underscored his successful 53-year marriage to wife Lupe. His work includes designing new life support gear such as parachutes, survival kits, life rafts and vests for HSG Air Crew Protection Division's Survival Equipment Branch. Ironically, he has outlasted the 30-year shelf life of many sustainment engineered equipment he helped develop.

Mr. Proctor's life as a federal worker at times has been an epic adventure in which the origin of his symbolic journey of 1,000 miles, as the Chinese proverb suggests, began with one small step.

"I was a graduating senior in 1952,

studying business education at Arkansas State Teacher's College, when I joined the Air Force during the Korean War," he recalls. He became a Lackland Air Force Base drill instructor until 1956. He took a short break from federal service to complete his college education on the G.I. Bill at the University of Arkansas.

What he did next changed the course of his life forever. "Back then engineers were in demand. I was impressed with the program the Navy offered," he said, referring to recruiters who persuaded him to work for them as a civil servant.

The Cold War was in full bloom when Mr. Proctor became a key member of Navy missile technology's supporting cast. "I worked on developing proximity fuses for ballistic missiles at the Pacific Missile Range at Point McGee, Calif. We set the fuses to fire a ring of steel that cut in half scale models of Russian airplanes," he said. Mr. Proctor would also be instrumental in helping develop heat-seeking sidewinder missiles.

By 1961 he had returned to his wife's hometown to work for Kelly AFB's Propulsion Division. "I enjoyed problem-solving," he said about working on jet engines and contributing to the C-5A Galaxy's development.

His problem-solving abilities were severely tested, however, not for the Air Force, but as a Naval Reserve officer. As a newly minted Lieutenant Junior



Photo by Rudy Purificato

"Retirement is not in my vocabulary," says the Human Systems Group's Cecil Proctor, who has enjoyed 50 years of federal service and plans to continue working for the Air Force indefinitely.

Grade in 1962, his San Antonio reserve unit assignment proved fateful. It became a nearly calamitous adventure when his commander told him he needed to "get his sea legs."

"I didn't know anything about the Navy," he admitted before being shipped off for sea duty aboard a destroyer escort bound for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The trip would have been, in any other era, a routine cruise except for the tag team antics of Fidel Castro and Nikita Khrushchev. Lieutenant Proctor, asked to guide the ship out of port at night, sailed into troubled waters during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

"Guantanamo Bay was all lit up. Marines were swarming all over the place. Airplanes were taking off every five minutes. Aircraft carriers were in the harbor. It was a tense, but good experience," he remembers. At the base, Lieutenant Proctor was introduced to "the gate." Innocently asking where that gate led to, a Marine replied, "We're waiting on orders from Washington, D.C. to open that gate. Then we're all headed for Havana!" That order never came.

What came next for Lt. Proctor was another harrowing experience during his return sea cruise back to the states. "We were leaving Guantanamo when the captain ordered the crew to go to battle stations. Our sonar had picked up a Russian sub," he said. The captain pronounced, "We're going to sit on top of that sub and make it surface."

The plan was to identify it and relay the information back to the Pentagon.

"I was going to make a career of the Naval Reserve, but too many TDYs interfered with my job at Kelly AFB," Mr. Proctor said. He separated from the Naval Reserve in favor of an uninterrupted Air Force civil service career that migrated to Brooks AFB in 1997 when the Life Support Branch was transferred here.

"I didn't have a goal when I got out of school," he said, explaining that he had no idea that he'd last this long in a career that he hopes to prolong. "I'm not interested in retirement. I want to be involved in the next project, not feeding pigeons in a park," he said.



# Military OneSource helps maintain a mentally healthy Air Force

By Elizabeth Castillo  
Discovery writer

In order to maintain a mentally healthy Air Force and keep all lines of communication open for counseling, Military OneSource provides a resourceful and effective way to find the information personnel seek to get the help they need.

Military OneSource is an information and referral telephone service, which is available 24 hours a day seven days a week. The toll free service is available worldwide to active duty, Reserve, and National Guard military members and their families. It is also available to deployed civilians and their families.

Military OneSource can be used as a free resource for an array of information from everyday issues or deployment and reintegration issues. Tech. Sgt. Brigida Hendrix, Readiness NCO

of the Family Services Center, uses Military OneSource to gather information for her predeployment briefings and as a constant resource for her program.

"In my program I think that counseling is the most important thing," Sergeant Hendrix said. "The good thing about Military OneSource is that it is 24-7."

The 24 hour service is not only limited to telephone usage, but is also available online. There, customers can search for information and find answers to any questions or concerns.

Customers are also able to request a maximum of six face-to-face counseling sessions, which address short-term issues such as marital issues, improving relationships at home and work, and grief and loss issues.

Dennis Abernathy, military testing control officer of the Military Personnel Flight used Mili-

tary OneSource to inform his wife about her uncle's death while she was stationed in Balad, Iraq.

"Military OneSource got the message to her immediately," said Mr. Abernathy. "They were very helpful, I would recommend it to anyone who needs to get emergency information to their family in theater."

Whether the customer chooses to use Military OneSource on line, over the phone, or face-to-face, the sessions remain private. There are, however some reasons in which Military OneSource consultants are responsible for reporting such as family maltreatment, threats of harm to self or others, substance abuse, and illegal activi-

MILITARY ONESOURCE  
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ties.

The consultants at Military OneSource have an average of five years experience in their fields and carry a master's degree in fields such as education, social work, early childhood development, psychology, and counseling. All face-to-face counselors must be licensed in their states, and must have a master's degree or higher.

"For whatever reason, some people may not want to seek help from life skills or the chaplain, and having an outside agency makes a big difference knowing that they can go someplace and have someone to talk to," said Sergeant Hendrix.

According to a recent survey taken by Military OneSource,

Brooks City-Base had the highest percent of usage in November. The survey showed a high percentage of satisfaction with the information provided by Military OneSource, and that customers would use the service again.

"There is so much that they offer and the information you can get from them is so diverse," said Sergeant Hendrix. "Our dealing with them has always been positive."

Military OneSource will be hosting an online workshop titled "Setting Up a Personal Budget." The workshop will last from 9 to 10 a.m. Jan. 24 and Jan. 31, and will include information on how to take charge of personal finances, sticking to a budget and other related topics.

To access Military OneSource by call 1-800-342-9647 or visit [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)





# Brooks officials set deadline for completing NSPS training

By Ed Shannon  
Director of Public Affairs



With Brooks employees transitioning to a new personnel system within a couple of months, 311th Human Systems Wing officials set a deadline for employees and supervisors to accomplish Change Management and Soft Skills computer-based training.

Wing officials announced this week that employees and supervisors must complete the computer-based training by Feb. 17, said Charles Shinn, Brooks National Security Personnel System implementation advisor.

“The Change Management and Soft-Skills courses do not provide technical information about NSPS—their focus is on the development of communication and change management skills which will be needed to successfully implement NSPS,” Mr. Shinn said. “These courses can be taken online anytime prior to or during NSPS implementation.”

The implementation of NSPS will require managers, supervi-

sors and employees to have a basic knowledge of NSPS regulations and processes,” said Toni Robertson, Brooks NSPS training coordinator. “Also, they will need to know the core competencies or soft skills to successfully transition to and thrive in the new system.”

And Ms. Robertson’s training team is working hard to set up as much computer-based training as possible for Brooks employees. The team identified several classes – some for managers and supervisors and others for employees and is setting up class dates and training instructors for those classes now.

Ms. Robertson said four core competencies have been identified as being essential for successful NSPS implementation. These include the ability to deal

with change; skill in interpersonal communications; the ability to coach and counsel employees; and the ability to achieve results through performance and/or manage employee performance.

“These skills have always been important,” she said. “Under NSPS, these skills become even more critical.”

While the Change Management and Soft-Skills classes do not provide technical information about NSPS, they focus on the development of communication and change management skills which will be needed to successfully implement NSPS, Robertson said. These courses can be taken online anytime before or during NSPS implementation. Training on NSPS regulations and processes will be provided to employees and supervi-

sors when NSPS is deployed.

“We expect NSPS implementation to occur much more smoothly if all of our employees take advantage of the Change Management and soft-skills classes now,” Ms. Robertson said. “We know there will be other important NSPS training coming our way that will focus on the process and regulations. Implementation might be more difficult for employees if they wait until the last minute to accomplish all of the training.”

Training classes are offered online in two sets – Change Management and Soft-Skills, and the sets are divided into non-supervisory and supervisory groups. Every Brooks employee should determine which group (supervisory or non-supervisory) they belong to and take at least one Change Management class and at least one Soft-Skills class in their group.

Ms. Robertson said any Air Force employee may register online for computer based train-

ing courses at the Air Force Portal. There is no cost for taking the online courses. Employees should obtain their supervisor’s approval before taking online courses. Supervisors are highly encouraged to allow their employees the time needed to complete the recommended courses. But before employees can accomplish their training, they must register at the Air Force Portal to access the courses (see pg. 14 for instructions).

For information additional help in accessing the courses online, call Staff Sgt. Troy Rude at 536-3617.

Ms. Robertson said NSPS courses – one designed for supervisors and managers and another for employees – are expected to begin in late February. More information about these courses will be provided as it becomes available.

For more information about NSPS training, contact Toni Robertson at 536-5692 or Ms. Laverne Kistner at 536-6964.

See page 14 for instructions on accessing NSPS computer-based training



## THIS WON'T HURT A BIT...



Photo by Elizabeth Castillo

Airman 1st Class Linn Aubrey of the Lackland Blood Donor Center draws blood from Airman 1st Class Bryson Miller of the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine at a recent blood drive at Brooks City-Base. The Donor Center is hosting another base-wide blood drive Thursday at the Base Chapel from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The center is extremely low of blood supplies because of the holidays and is in need of all blood types. All donors will receive a free t-shirt, cookies and soda.

## AIDS course unites military leaders

By Capt. Katherine Mills  
U.S. School of Aerospace Medicine

The Defense Institute for Medical Operations, based at Brooks City-Base, wrapped up its fifth annual HIV/AIDS course Dec. 9.

The course brought together 69 participants from 30 countries, including high-ranking military officers and senior government officials leading the fight against the disease in their nations. The course curriculum focused on prevention and treatment, strategies for obtaining resources and setting national policy, and dealing with HIV/AIDS in the military.

To learn about U.S. military efforts to address HIV/AIDS, participants heard from numerous Department of Defense experts. Maj. Brian Moore, Chief, Horn of Africa Medical Programs and International Health Specialist, Office of the Command Surgeon, U.S. Central Command, addressed the group and discussed CENTCOM strategy.

He said he hoped to get more CENTCOM area countries involved in the course in upcoming years, as infectious disease will become increasingly important as the United States and its coalition partners move into restructuring and stabilizing the area. Other speakers addressed the DOD program to prevent HIV/AIDS and military research efforts.

General Ogbonnaya Njoku, who serves as Nigeria's uniformed liaison to the U.S. military, said he found direct military-to-military interaction very helpful. "It cuts out a lot of bureaucracy," he said.

He was also impressed with the focus on the plight of nations with scarce resources. Without resources, he said, nations are unable to put the training they receive into practice.

Capt. (Dr.) Garfield Gibson from Jamaica praised the course, saying it allowed him to learn from other participants what has worked in their countries.

"Prevention is essential to Jamaica's fight against HIV/AIDS," he said, adding that he looked forward to cooperating with other military doctors at the conference on successful prevention strategies. "You can give out condoms, but are they being used?" He also appreciated the opportunity to meet with speakers representing donor agencies and experts on world-wide HIV/AIDS resources.

As the DIMO staff saw the last participants leave Dec. 10, they reflected on the success of this year's course.

DIMO Director, Col (Dr.) Matthew Dolan said, "After this year's ground-breaking course, military leaders leave San Antonio bound for thirty nations around the world — an incredible impact for Brooks City-Base."



**ERIC STEPHENS**  
311th Human Systems  
Wing director

# ACTION LINE

## 536-2222

The DIRECTOR'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.  
If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the **DIRECTOR'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222**.  
Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

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Logistics Division.....	536-3541	Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
Safety.....	536-2111	Inspector General (FWA).....	536-2358
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BDA Housing Community Office.....	533-5905	EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
311th Services Division.....	536-2545	Brooks City-Base AF Project Office.....	536-3655
59th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715	Brooks Development Authority.....	536-5366

## Brooks Legal Office offers free tax prep

Capt. Nicholas Doukas  
Brooks Legal Office

The end of the holiday season and beginning of the new year is a joyous time. Unfortunately, it also means tax season is just around the corner. Brooks Legal Office has a solution for those confused by all those earnings and bank statements. The office has IRS certified tax preparers available to prepare and file taxes free for qualified individuals.

Last year, the Brooks Legal Office prepared more than 250 tax returns, obtained tax returns totaling \$338,000 and saved customers more than \$35,000 in fees that commercial tax preparers would have charged. This year, the Brooks Legal Office will operate a Tax Center Feb. 6 through April. The Tax Center is staffed by volunteer IRS certified tax preparers. These preparers are active duty and civilians assigned to Brooks who each received over 40 hours of tax training by the IRS. They can prepare and electronically file taxes for free. (The average commercial tax preparer charges over \$150 per return.)

Active duty and retired military and their dependents are eligible to use the Tax Center.

Those interested in utilizing the Tax Center should call the Brooks Legal Office at 536-3301 and request a "tax preparation appointment." Appointments last 30 minutes and are available Mondays from 8 to 11 a.m., Tuesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and Wednesdays from noon to 3 p.m.

Before the appointment, military members will receive a questionnaire via email. This questionnaire contains helpful tips and provides the preparer with valuable information. Members should also begin receiving various tax-related documents from DFAS, banks and mortgage company in mid to late January.

The completed questionnaire, a military/retiree/dependent ID card and all tax-related documents, including income statements, year-end investment statements from banks and brokerages, receipts and bills, as well as lists of medical expenses, home mortgage interest, IRA contributions, charitable donations and other tax-related expenses that were paid during the year should be brought to the appointment.

The more complete and better organized the information is, the more accurate the tax return will be. For more information regarding the Brooks Tax Center, contact Capt. Nicholas Doukas at 536-3301.

## FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

### SMOOTH MOVE

Jan. 17 — 12:30 - 3:15 p.m., Bldg. 537

PCSing? Hear briefings from TMO, Legal, Clinic, Finance, Housing, and the Family Support Center and ask questions. Open to all active duty members, DoD civilians and spouses. Overseas move has its own set of challenges and opportunities. Learn more about OCONUS PCS by staying after for the PCS Overseas class.

### SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT

Jan. 18 — 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

This is a mandatory class for active military personnel who are retiring or separating within 120 days. Topics covered are Pre-Separation, Veterans Benefits, Survivors Benefit Plans, TRICARE, and Financial Planning for Transition. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

### BUNDLES FOR BABIES

Jan. 26 — 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., Bldg. 537

Expectant parents session: active duty Air Force couples with a newborn or expecting a child should plan on attending this Air Force Aid Society sponsored class. Obtain information about budgeting,

basic baby care, infant development, effective parenting, car seat regulations and much more.

### SPONSOR TRAINING

Feb. 7 — 10 - 11 a.m., Bldg. 537

In accordance with AFI 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory of all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. However, others are more than welcome to attend. Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

### FINANCIAL TRAINING

Feb. 8 — 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

Have you procrastinated saving or investing money for a rainy day? Do you feel like you're living from pay check to pay check? Do you feel like it's too late to be rich? Then the Family Support Center has a class designed just for you, "Start Late, Finish Rich" by David Bach. This class is a no-fail plan for achieving financial freedom at any age. Whether you're in your 30s, 40s, 50s or beyond, there is still time to turn things around. It's never too late to finish rich; all it takes is the decision to get started.

To register for a class, call 536-2444



## Challenger Center to hang historic painting of AF astronaut

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

A new generation of future space explorers will be introduced to one of America's earliest NASA pioneers when a painting of the late astronaut and Air Force officer Edward H. White II is unveiled later this month at the Challenger Learning Center at Brooks.

The huge 60-by-72 foot original oil, painted by artist S. P. Stevens in 1970, has been in storage for years since its removal as a Hangar 9 exhibit. It depicts America's first space walk by Mr. White in 1965 during a two-man Gemini earth orbital flight.

The Brooks Aerospace and Heritage Foundations, in concert with the 311th Human Systems Wing, plans to rededicate the reframed painting Jan. 27, the 39th anniversary of White's tragic death in the Apollo 1 fire that also claimed the lives of astronauts Gus Grissom and Roger Chafee.

"It has been stored in a climate controlled area at the Challenger Center. For years it hung in Hangar 9," said Sheila Klein, Brooks Heritage Foundation executive director. Dedication of the renovated Hangar 9 in 1970, also known as the Edward H. White II Memorial, prompted creation of the painting. Over time, the painting began to dete-

riorate because it was displayed in a non-climate controlled area.

The artwork is significant to Brooks because of Mr. White's connection to his native San Antonio and for his historic visit here prior to his death. Feted as a national hero, White spoke about his space exploits during a ceremony in front of Building 150. It was there where the astronaut held a photo of John F. Kennedy delivering his famous "Cap over the wall" speech on space exploration in the same spot the President had given his address and behind the same podium. It was JFK's last public speech. The next day he was assassinated. The Kennedy-White podium is on display in Bldg. 150's lobby.

Mrs. Klein said the painting will be hung on a hallway wall that leads to the center's activity room where space campers and other visitors congregate. "The center is visited by 10,000 children a year," Mrs. Klein said, predicting that many students will view the historic painting based on an actual NASA photograph. The historic photo also was used in the design of a commemorative U.S. postage stamp.



Painting by E.O. Wesp  
Brooks artist E.O. Wesp's oil portrait, depicting astronaut Edward White's 1965 space walk, is on display at Hangar 9. It is a companion to a larger painting to be unveiled Jan. 27 at the Challenger Center.

"The goal is to have it hanging on Jan. 27, the anniversary of his death," Mrs. Klein said. Its restoration to a place of honor also coincides with the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Challenger disaster on Jan. 28.

Mrs. Klein said the painting needs cleaning and restoration. A companion work also exists — former Brooks artist E.O. Wesp's portrait size oil of White's space walk that is exhibited in a climate controlled room at Hangar 9.

## AF makes changes to BAH

By Elizabeth Castillo  
Discovery writer

With the new year, people resolve to make changes, start fresh and have new beginnings. The Air Force has also made changes, as it will eliminate geographic rate protection for base allowance for housing rates beginning this month.

Beginning this year, base allowance for housing rates will fluctuate yearly based on housing cost estimates made from data collected regionally by military housing offices. The budget-conscious move by the Department of Defense is designed to save money at a time when resources are tight.

Under the new system, people who are already assigned to Brooks as of Dec. 31, 2005 will not see a decrease in their BAH. Airmen and other military personnel who have already established a home will not face a cut in their BAH rate due to a policy called individual rate protection.

"If a member is currently assigned to Brooks housing or lives off base as of Dec 31 and there is a decrease in BAH rates, the member will receive the higher rate 2005 rate," said 1st Lt. Mary Kelley, Deputy Financial Services Officer.

When there is an increase

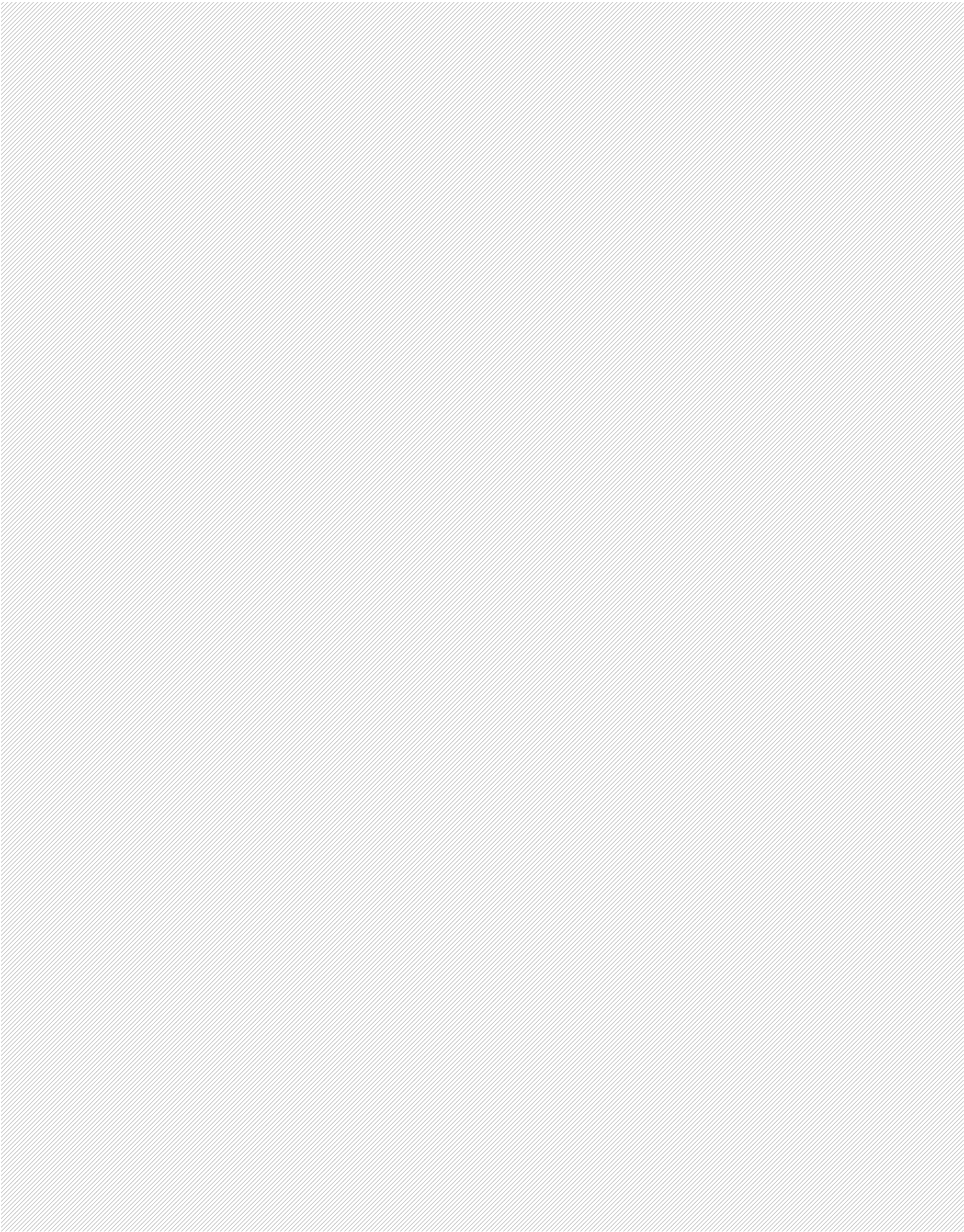
in BAH rates, those military personnel who are eligible, will receive the increase. Military members who reside in Brooks housing and receive a BAH increase are responsible for increasing their allotment to the housing authority. This can be accomplished by visiting the Brooks Finance Office.

"Military members living in base housing have to come increase their allotment to match the new BAH rates," said Lieutenant Kelley.

Along with the changes to rate protection, the Air Force has implemented changes related to the BAH differential. The BAH differential is a flat rate, based on grade, paid to members who are paying court-ordered child support. In 2006, the differential will no longer exist for members who reside off base. Instead, they will receive the BAH with-dependent rate, even if they have no dependents in their home.

Brooks personnel who are interested in viewing charts with the current and previous BAH rates are able to visit the BAH website at <https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html>. Personnel are also able to contact the Brooks Finance office for further help located in Bldg. 570A.







Defense Travel System

from page 1

tem, travelers will generate travel authorizations, make trip reservations and route travel requests through their desktop workstations.

“All you will need is a Controlled Access Card reader and DB Sign software for electronic digital signatures,” Sergeant McGill said. DTS is paperless and uses required DoD Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) certification signatures. Travelers create their own orders, subject to review and certification by an organization’s approving official.

“Travelers will book their own airline flights,” said Sergeant Dougan, explaining that the DTS process will be similar to arranging travel commercially through ORBITS. However, commercial travel arrangements will be restricted to GSA contract carriers involving city pairs flights, Sergeant Dougan said.

“The big change is that (DoD) travelers will no longer process travel vouchers through finance,” said Sergeant McGill.

Travel expense reimbursement will also be made easier through DTS. “You’ll still

have to file your travel vouchers (electronically) within five working days per regulation required under DoD FMR Volume Nine,” Sergeant Dougan explains.

Air fare, lodging, rental car and other receipts are scanned under DTS which automatically links that data with other information about a customer’s travel already electronically stored in the system.

“Banking information is built into the system. Electronic fund transfer will be made (through DTS) for reimbursement of travel expenses,” Sergeant McGill said. She explained that completed travel vouchers will automatically flow to the approving official for review and payment authorization.

While DTS is expected to save time, manpower and money, there are some limitations to the system. “It can’t (yet) process PCS orders, orders for formal training and deployment orders,” says Sergeant Dougan.

He said travelers will continue to process travel orders for these requirements through FM’s Automated Business Support System.

Brooks plans ‘field of dreams’

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Nobody is expecting the ghost of baseball legend Shoeless Joe Jackson to show up next year at a new sports complex to be built here, but for Brooks athletes plans to replace the old softball diamonds has become their ‘field of dreams.’

Sometime in 2006 construction will begin at the southeast corner of the base near Goliad Road for a multi-sports facility that will be an expansion of the existing city park. It’s part of a \$1 million bond project approved by city voters in November 2003.

“The sports complex will include eight soccer fields, a rugby field and a soccer practice field as well as two softball fields that the Air Force can use,” said Cyndy Hanson, Brooks Development Authority Information and Technology manager.

Since August, one of two softball fields located across from Hangar 9 was converted to a Brooks youth sports

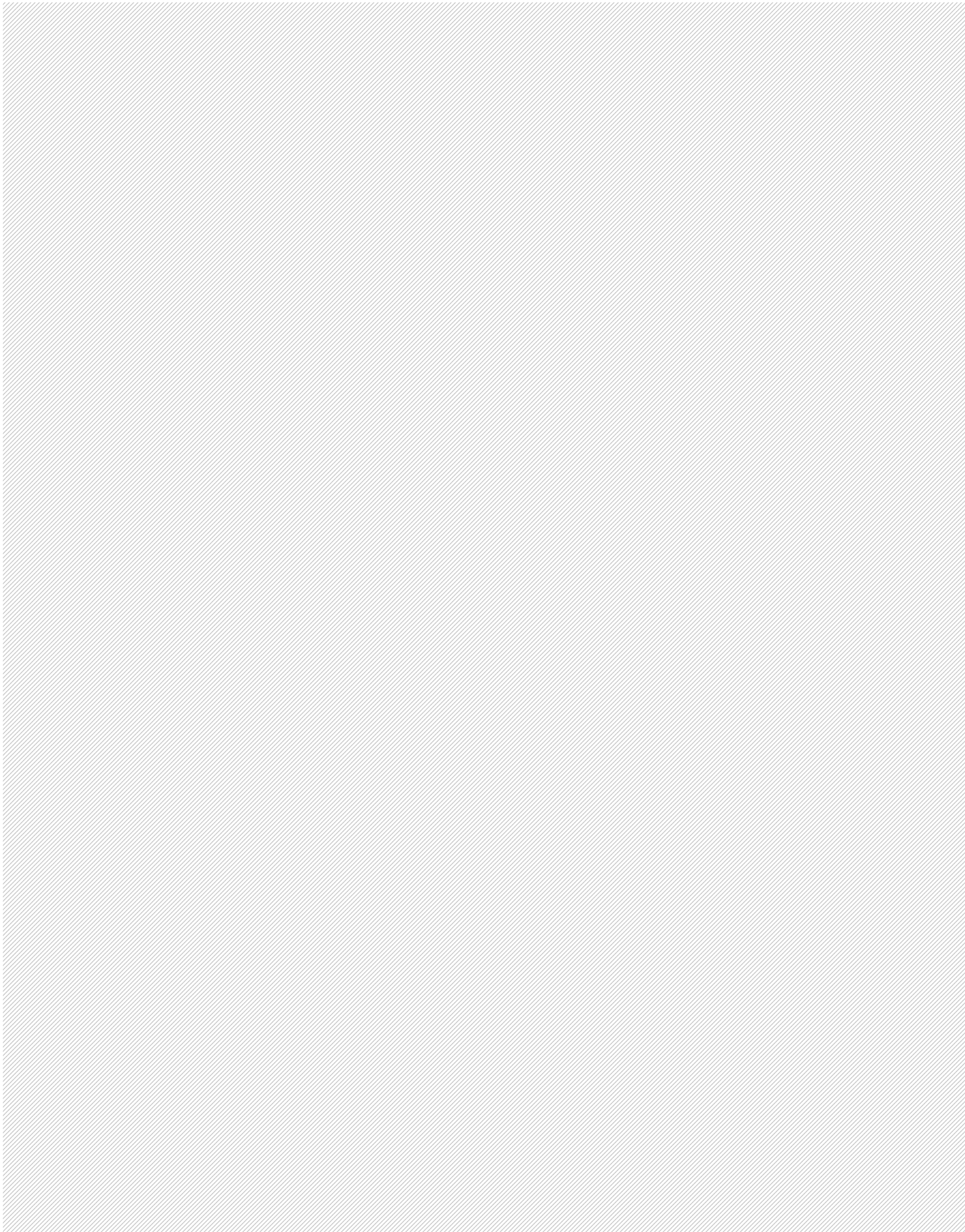
football field. “The old youth football field, located next to the baseball field, was moved to softball field #1 due to construction on the flight line,” said Willie Mastin, Brooks fitness center specialist. He said the outfield fence was dismantled to accommodate one of two goal posts for the football field that support the Brooks youth sports tackle football program.

The field’s conversion is temporary, Mr. Mastin said, explaining that it and the adjacent softball field #2, will be torn down next year because the city plans to build a new municipal complex there.

“We’ll break ground in late spring or early summer for the new city Emergency Operations Center,” Mrs. Hanson said, referring to the \$24.5 million complex that city and county voters approved during the November 2003 bond election.

The current softball fields were built in the early 1990s after the old softball fields were dismantled to accommodate construction of the U.S. Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence.







MUNDELL



FULL NAME:

Tech. Sgt. Elaine Mundell

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:

NCOIC, Military Justice,  
Brooks Legal Office

IN SIMPLE TERMS,  
WHAT DO YOU DO?:

Process tons of paperwork for courts-  
martial, Article 15s and discharges  
(and whatever else they give me to do.)

BIRTHDAY:

June 12, 1959

HOMETOWN:

Fairbanks, Alaska

FAMILY STATUS:

Married with one son, five dogs,  
three cats, eight and a half horses  
and eight fish

PERSONAL MOTTO:

"Get through the day and try to have a  
little fun doing it."

INSPIRATIONS:

My Mom and any woman who has  
achieved her dreams.

HOBBIES:

HORSES, reading, sewing

PET PEEVE:

People who hurt kids or animals

BOOKS AT BEDSIDE:

Any Anne McCaffrey novel  
and the PFE

FAVORITE MUSIC:

Country and classic rock

I JOINED THE MILITARY  
BECAUSE:

I wanted to make a difference

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:

Retire from Air Force  
and raise horses

ULTIMATE GOAL:

Retire from Air Force  
and raise horses

IF I WON THE LOTTERY,  
I WOULD:

Retire from Air Force  
and raise horses

# Staying straight and flying right

By Kendahl Johnson  
Discovery editor

For many, a planned four-year commitment to the Air Force often turns into seven years. Then 10, then 15 and eventually, retirement eligibility is right around the corner. Reasons like job security, diversity of assignments and loyalty often factor into the unanticipated reenlistments. For one Brooks sergeant, it was a combination of all three.

When Tech. Sgt. Elaine Mundell, the non-commissioned officer in charge of military justice at the Brooks Legal Office, joined the Air Force, the plan was to serve for four years, then move on. Nineteen years, several reenlistments and one cross-train to a new career field later and she is now just one year away from retirement eligibility. And she doesn't regret it for a second.

"It's been great. I've learned a lot and done things that I never would have done outside the Air Force," Sergeant Mundell said. "I was working at a bank before I came in. There's no way that job could ever have matched this experience. I've seen the world. I've been to Morocco, Spain, England, Germany and been sight-seeing all over Europe. Most people don't get to do that."

Sergeant Mundell's path to the military began in Fairbanks, Alaska, where she was born and raised. Upon graduation from high school, she enrolled in the University of Alaska-Fairbanks to study law enforcement. To pay her tuition, she worked summers at a salmon cannery. "During the peak of salmon season, we'd be working 14-18 hours a day, seven days a week," she said. "It was good money for a college student."

Despite the good pay, the job not only was tedious at times – she'd spend most the time just watching the cans go by – it also turned her off to canned salmon. "I love salmon, but I don't eat canned salmon. I think I must have overdosed, because even now, I can't eat canned salmon."

To escape the drudgery of the salmon canning, she transferred to Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, a move she said she "never regretted." She finished out her degree and returned to Alaska to look for work. But civilian law enforcement wasn't in the cards. "There was a recession and no one was hiring cops."

Instead, she decided to join the military where she felt she could truly make a difference in the world. There were no officer recruiters around, so in 1987 she enlisted into the career field of security police. Unable to escape the cold climate, her first assignment was to Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., where she would become the first female fire team member.

After Sergeant Mundell had been in the Air Force for a year, she went through the entire process to become an officer. But as bad luck would have it, the Air Force was in the middle of its first round of "draw downs" or force shaping. "I went to turn in my paperwork to the Military Personnel Flight and they asked if I wanted to be a pilot or a navigator. I said neither," she said.

So Sergeant Mundell continued to work security forces as enlisted, spending the next six years overseas in Germany at Rhein-Main and Sembach Air Bases in Germany. She said she enjoyed the first 10 years because it provided the opportunity to work in several different capacities. "I have been a jack of all trades no matter where I've been or what I've done," she said. "I've worked the flight line. I've worked missile fields. I've worked administration. I've been a medic. I've done it all," she said.

Despite the enjoyment the job variation provided, after 10 years in security forces Sergeant Mundell decided she wanted to do something different, something she could use after retiring from the Air Force. Her search led her to cross-train as a paralegal. "I'm glad I made the change because I really enjoy this job. I don't get as much diversity, but this job keeps me busy; I didn't want a boring job."

Following an assignment to Luke AFB, Ariz., she was sent to Tinker AFB, Okla.. It was while at Tinker she had one of the most memorable experiences in her career – she was deployed to Saudi Arabia where she worked for the Tarnak Farms Incident Board. She worked administration for the board, which was investigat-

ing the accidental death of several Canadians.

Following Tinker, Sergeant Mundell was assigned to the Brooks Legal Office, where she spends time in court administration, legal research and making sure the witnesses make their court appearances. She also drafts Article 15s and discharges for the units. Her advice for the young Airmen just beginning their careers: "When they teach you something at Basic Training, listen to it; it's for a reason."

"When a disciplinary action gets to our office, it's fairly serious. An Article 15 stays in an Airman's record for the rest of his or her career. With force shaping, it could be a career stopper, whether (the Airman) is an officer or enlisted. It's not that hard to stay straight and fly right and just get on with your job," she said. "Take this job of defending our country very seriously. You have to do your job because people are relying on you."

Yet despite the discharges and the Article 15s, Sergeant Mundell enjoys working in legal so much, she plans to continue to work in the field after her retirement. "I am hoping to work for the Department of Defense as a paralegal. I am also training to do court reporting." Although she enjoys working in legal, she said she wouldn't want to work for a public defender. "I don't have much tolerance for bad guys."

When not at work, she spends time with her husband, who is retired Air Force, and her son and 24 pets (five dogs, three cats, eight horses and eight fish). They own land in Floresville and animals are her passion, particularly horses. "I have a passion for horses. I love to raise them from the time they are babies. I like riding, but am not into competition."

Sergeant Mundell's future in the Air Force is uncertain as her 20-year mark creeps closer. Fortunately, she has gained great experience in both security forces and legal. She has proven herself a loyal employee. And if nothing else, her animals will keep her busy.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder







# Flying high: Air Force's 'eyes of the home sky'

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Using state-of-the-art on-board communications and photo imaging equipment to track recent brush fires plaguing the state, Civil Air Patrol members based at Brooks City-Base are helping the Texas Forest Service control blazes while fulfilling their mission as the Air Force's "eyes of the home sky."

Whether it's emergency services operations or aerial reconnaissance, the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol has been steadfast in its commitment to serve America as a hometown national resource.

"The Civil Air Patrol is a congressionally mandated 501c (3) non-profit corporation composed of 100 percent volunteers," said retired Air Force Lt. Col. Ed Billman, CAP Group commander for the Southern Portion of the Texas Wing. He commands 11 squadrons and 300 volunteers located throughout South Texas, including three organizations based here in Building 186: Group headquarters and the Alamo Composite and Bexar County Senior Squadrons.

Since the 1950s, CAP units here have fulfilled a variety of missions. They've ranged from ceremonial duties including President John F. Kennedy's historic 1963 Brooks AFB visit, to helping support public safety through disaster relief following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

CAP's well-earned reputation for reliability has validated the Air Force's decision in 1948

to make the organization its civilian auxiliary, tasked with inland search and rescue missions involving downed aircraft. Brooks leaders, historically, have provided resources that have helped CAP units fulfill an ever-expanding role of augmenting federal, state and local assets.

"Starting with Brigadier General (Lloyd) Dodd, the support to CAP from the 311th Human Systems Wing has been the best it has ever been during the past 15-20 years," said Colonel Billman.

That support has been built on decades of trust and confidence in an organization that was conceived in 1938 by New York Herald Tribune aviation editor-turned New Jersey Aeronautics Commissioner Gill Robb Wilson. Mr. Wilson's vision for augmenting U.S. coastal defenses became a reality when the Civil Air Patrol was established Dec. 1, 1941 as part of the Office of Civilian Defense headed by former New York Mayor Fiorello La Guardia. CAP's initial mission of liaison reconnaissance flying was expanded in 1943 when German submarines began sinking American ships off the U.S. coast. CAP was reassigned to the War Department and placed under the jurisdiction of the Army Air Forces. CAP coastal patrols flew 24 million miles during the war, resulting in 64 CAP aviators losing their lives. CAP, however, forced Germany to end U.S. coastal U-boat operations.

CAP's wartime record also earned it a unique status, similar to the American Red Cross, when President Harry



Courtesy photos

Civil Air Patrol cadets conduct a pre-flight aircraft inspection before taking off on an orientation ride. This plane is one of 550 in the CAP fleet nationwide that are used primarily for U.S. Air Force-assigned inland search and rescue operations.

Truman signed a bill establishing the organization as a federally chartered benevolent civilian corporation. Two years later, Congress passed Public Law 557 that made CAP the Air Force's auxiliary. CAP's charter is to fulfill three primary missions: emergency services, cadet program and aerospace education.

"Its primary mission is search and rescue," says Colonel Billman

about locating missing aircraft. This is coordinated through the Federal Aviation Administration, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and CAP's National Operations Center at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Annually, CAP volunteers perform nearly 3,000 missions that account for 95 percent of U.S. inland search and rescue.

"The Air Force covers operational expenses, such as fuel and aircraft maintenance, when CAP is assigned a mission," Colonel Billman said. He said CAP volunteers become temporary federal employees, covered by liability and workman's compensation, when performing Air Force assigned missions.

These missions include transporting time-sensitive medical materials, blood products and body tissues; anti-drug trafficking operations supporting U.S. Customs and the Drug Enforcement Agency; and courier service for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Organized into 52 wings manned by nearly 60,000 volunteers assigned to 1,500 units nationwide, CAP has evolved into a massive aerial lifeline for emergency first responders who battle devastation caused by floods, fires, tornadoes, earthquakes and

terms of damage such as submerged roads and structurally compromised dams and bridges. CAP is also equipped with hyperspectral imaging sensors that defines minute targets through the object's light, color and hue signature.

CAP's volunteers are highly

motivated and skilled. Veteran pilots and support personnel comprise its senior squadrons. The Alamo Composite Squadron here is typical of the

The support to CAP from the 311th Human Systems Wing has been the best it has ever been during the past 15-20 years

Lt. Col. (ret) Ed Billman  
Civil Air Patrol group commander

hurricanes. It is well equipped to handle any assigned mission.

"The Air Force purchases planes for CAP. Today, we have 550 planes. It's the largest fleet of single-engine piston aircraft in the world," Colonel Billman said. Featuring mostly Cessna 172s and 182s, and GA-8 Australian eight-passenger bush planes, CAP's fleet, if classified an Air Force, would be one of the world's largest.

"CAP has become technologically sophisticated," said Colonel Billman, referring to high tech gear they use that has long ago replaced binoculars. CAP uses digital aerial video and cameras, lap top computers and satellite phones that comprise its satellite digital imaging system.

"We can e-mail to customers within two minutes of taking high definition, high resolution aerial photos," says Colonel Billman. This capability provides extremely accurate aerial surveillance images used by disaster relief personnel in assessing infrastructure pat-

adult-cadet mix of seasoned pros and eager young learners ages 12-21.

"I joined CAP as a cadet when I turned 13 years old in Dallas. It got me interested in aviation and gave me direction and focus. It also helped me get into the Air Force Academy," admits Colonel Billman, a 1978 Academy graduate and pilot. CAP, historically, provides 10 percent of students entering the military service academies. CAP cadet recipients of the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award earn as Air Force enlistees the grade of E-3 after basic training. CAP's nationally recognized aerospace education program is exceptional, providing youngsters with information that helps prepare them for future careers.

"The best teaching tool is the real thing – working on and flying airplanes," Colonel Billman said. For more information contact Capt. Diane Brymer at (830) 569-1188 or Lt. Chuck Tetlow at 967-8712 or visit [www.aerospaces.org](http://www.aerospaces.org).



Congressman Henry Gonzalez presents the Civil Air Patrol's highest unit award, the Outstanding Texas Wing trophy, to Brooks Air Force Base leaders in 1969. The Alamo Squadron, still based at Brooks, earned the honor for its contributions to search and rescue operations of downed aircraft.





*Things to do around Brooks*  
Janice McMahon, 536-5475

#### FIT FACTOR: YOUTH FITNESS PROGRAM

Fit Factor is a fitness program for youth, ages 9-18 years. The theme is "Get Up, Get Out, Get Fit." Visit the Youth Center to enroll your children. Collect a prize just for committing to "Get Up, Get Out, Get Fit." Once a child commits to the program he or she can go online, choose activities and log points. Youth who complete five exciting levels earn great items. Participate for a chance to learn new skills, get fit and win prizes.

#### COOK YOUR OWN STEAK

Patrons can now grill their own steaks. Bring the family or friends to the Boar's Head Pub every Monday evening from 4-7 p.m. and cook your steak just the way you like it. For

\$7.50, you will receive a New York strip steak, potato salad, baked beans, rolls and butter.

#### FAMILY CAMP

If your home is filled to capacity with out-of-town holiday visitors, consider the Family Camp. The camp is a very secluded and quiet place where travelers like to stay for a few days, weeks or even months. The camp is located on the southwestern corner of the base.

Accommodations also include the use of a bath house and restrooms located in Bldg. 1194. Full camper hookups are \$10 per day and include sewer, water and electricity. Partial camper hookups are \$8 per day. There is also a "catch and release" fishing pond for anglers.

#### GET IN SHAPE

Get a jump start on your New Year's fitness resolution. Stop by the fitness center to begin a new workout or join any of the free classes offered by the staff. On-going instructional classes:

- Aerobics: Mon, Wed: 5 p.m.; Fri: 11:30 a.m.
- Yoga: Mon, Wed, Fri: 5 p.m.
- Pilates: Mon, Wed, Thurs: 5 p.m.
- Kickboxing: Mon: 11:30 a.m.; Fri: 5 p.m.
- Power Cycling: Tu, Th: 11:30 a.m., 5 p.m.
- Circuit Training: Tu,, Th: 6:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

#### DIAMOND SHARP



Photo by Kendahl Johnson



Staff Sgt. Tina Chaney (center), a military training leader for the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, receives the First Sergeant's Diamond Sharp Award and "Well Done Coin" for the third quarter of last year. The Diamond Sharp

Award is presented to individuals in the ranks of E-6 and below for outstanding dress and personal appearance and strict adherence to customs and courtesies. Master Sgt. Darrell Smith (left), Master Sgt. Donald Damron, Master Sgt. Cindy Riley and Master Sgt. Laurie Olerich present the award.



## BROOKS BRIEFS



#### Brooks Annual Awards Banquet

The 2005 Brooks annual awards banquet will be Feb. 2 in the Brooks Club. Barbara Westgate, executive director of the Air Force Materiel Command, will be the guest speaker. Tickets are available at Sidney's.

#### Brooks Technology Expo

The 2006 Brooks-City Base Technology Expo will be held on Jan. 25 at the Brooks Club from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All personnel are invited to view demonstrations of the latest in emerging technologies at no fee.

Exhibitors will demonstrate the latest in collaboration tools, network operations services, data warehousing, information assurance, it solutions, storage solutions, enterprise security, hardware and software and much more.

Free refreshments and giveaways will be available while supplies last. For more information, contact Carrie Meadows at 888-603-8899 ext. 214 or via email at meadows@ncsi.com.

#### February is Black History Month

To help celebrate Black History Month in February, there will Bernard P. Randolph Scholarship luncheon Feb. 23 at 11:30 a.m. at the Brooks Club. Scholarship eligibility, as well as a full listing of

#### the month's events, can be found on the

AACA website at [www.brooks.af.mil/aaca](http://www.brooks.af.mil/aaca). For information regarding ticket purchase, contact Capt. Demetrius Stewart at 536-6993 or Lt. Damion Byrd at 536-4357.

#### Wing Quarterly Awards Ceremony

The Wing Quarterly Awards Ceremony will be Thursday at 3 p.m. in the Brooks Club. The ceremony will honor award recipients for the fourth quarter 2005.

#### Life Builders Luncheon

Life Builders is a weekly opportunity at the Base Chapel to nourish both body and soul. A meal is served at noon every Wednesday and a presentation on a specific topic is given by the chaplain. The new year of Life Builders begins Wednesday. For more information or to be added to the weekly reminder email list, contact Chaplain John Hubbs at 536-3824.

#### AFSA Chapter 1077

The Air Force Sergeant's Association will hold a special meeting Tuesday at 3 p.m. The meeting will include a gift presentation to Chief Reggie Williams in support of the Enlisted Widows Home. Other items on the agenda will include election procedures for executive officers and an update on other special projects.

## Football guru wins Discovery challenges



Tech. Sgt. Warren Benge  
AFRL

Congratulations to Tech. Sgt. Warren Benge of the Air Force Research Laboratory for winning the Discovery Fantasy Football Challenge. Sergeant Benge entered the playoffs as the third seed, but handily dismissed both playoff opponents to win the title.

To prove himself as ultimate football guru at Brooks, he dispatched several challengers to also win the Discovery Bowl Game Prediction contest, correctly predicting the winner of 19 of the 28 college football bowl games. He received stiff competition from the 311th Human Systems Wing's Capt. Jason Bishop, but Sergeant Benge won via a tiebreaker.

Henceforth, all football-related questions will be referred to Sergeant Benge, who said, "Football is my life."

## Instructions for accessing NSPS computer-based training courses via the Air Force Portal:

1. Log into the AF portal: <https://www.my.af.mil>
2. If you do not have a user name and password you will need to create one. Go to the Register Now box and select "Register without CAC"
3. Once you have your user name and password, login and ensure that you are on the AF Home tab page.
4. From the "Top Viewed Items" area, select "IT E-Learning"
5. Once you select "IT E-Learning" the SkillPort page will appear. Using the "Search for" text box you can search for any courses you wish.
6. If you wish you can change the category drop down to "Courses" to speed up your search.



## A LOOK at BROOKS

What is your  
New Year's  
resolution?



Martha Salas  
AFMSA

My New Year's resolution is to be more physically and emotionally fit, and to work on being more organized.



Vince Eloquin  
AFRL

Continue to ride into the sunset on my bike. Biking is a big part of physical fitness and staying healthy is something I push for.



Diana Gonzales  
59th MDS

I don't believe in resolutions; I believe in setting goals. Make the goal realistic, put your plan in writing and keep track, and persevere and be flexible.



Airman 1st Class  
James Baker  
68th IOS

I'm coming up for my CDC testing, and one of my goals is to pass that test, that and making BTC.



Airman Terry Phillips  
68th IOS

To make Airman of the Quarter sometime this year.





# Brooks to sponsor 3-on-3 tourney

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Registration is underway for the inaugural Black History Month 3-on-3 basketball tournament to be held Feb. 2 from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. at the Brooks fitness center.

Sponsored by the Brooks City-Base African American Cultural Association, the single elimination tourney is expected to attract the base’s top male and female athletes as an intramural showcase event.

“We’re hoping to have a little fun and bring people out for this event commemorating Black History Month. Hopefully, it may become a springboard for an annual tournament,” said event organizer Damion Byrd, who also is the Brooks men’s varsity basketball team head coach.

“Teams can register at the fitness center through Jan. 26. Only the first eight teams that register by the deadline will get to participate,” Coach Byrd said. He is optimistic there will be a lot more interest in this event than two years ago. The AACA had to cancel the proposed 2004 3 on 3 hoop tournament because not enough teams had registered.

Tournament changes are expected to attract enough interest, Coach Byrd predicts. The event is free and trophies and T-shirts will be presented to the wining

team. Teams can be coed, all-male or all-female. Each team is allowed four players.

Games will be played half-court. The first team to score 13 points, or whoever is ahead at the end of 13 minutes, wins. “In the event of a tie, teams will play a one minute overtime and the first point (scored) wins. If the score is still tied (at the end of overtime), the winner will be determined by a coin toss,” Coach Byrd explained.

Other specialized tourney rules require teams always attempting to score during a possession or risk losing the ball for delaying tactics or running out the clock; baskets made inside the three-point line will count for one point while three-point baskets will count for two points; teams will call their own fouls and violations while a mediator settles all disputes and keeps score; game time is forfeit time; the clock will not stop unless there is an injury; player substitutions can only be made during dead-ball situations; teams must take the ball back behind the three-point line before attempting a shot unless the ball from a opposing team’s shot does not hit the rim allowing for a rebound-and-shoot situation; and initial possession is to be determined by a coin toss.

For more information, contact Coach Byrd at 536-4537.

## ON A ROLL...



Courtesy photo

Air Force Academy’s Dan Nwaelele is this week’s Mountain West Conference player of the week. The Falcons are off to a tremendous start. They are 14-1 overall and unbeaten in the league. They are set to crack the top 25, ranking as high as 27th in several national polls.